

# FIR

**FIR** *n. f.* See **FENNEL**, of which plant it is a species.

**FIRPLE** *n. f.* [from *fibula*, Latin.] A stopper.

You must know, that in recorders, which go with a gentle breath, the concave of the pipe, were it not for the *fipple* that straiteneth the air, much more than the simple concave, would yield no found.

**FIR** *n. f.* [from *fir*, Welsh; *fyr*, Saxon; *fyr*, Danish.] The tree of which deal-boards are made.

It is ever green: the leaves are fingle, and for the most part produced on every side of the branches: the male flowers, or catkins, are placed at remote distances from the fruit on the same tree. The seeds are propagated on cones, which are squamose. See **PINE-TREE**.

He covered the floor of the house with planks of *fir*. *1 Kings*.

The *spiring fir* and stately box adorn. *Pope*.

**FIRE** *n. f.* [from *fyrr*, Saxon; *feur*, German.]

1. The igneous element.
2. Any thing burning.

A little *fire* is quickly trodden out, Which, being suffer'd, rivers cannot quench. *Shakef. H. VI.*

Where two raging *fires* meet together, They do consume the thing that feeds their fury. *Shakef.*

So contraries on Etna's top conspire; Here hoary frosts, and by them breaks out *fire*. *Cowley*.

- 3. A conflagration of towns or countries.

There is another liberality to the citizens, who had suffered damage by a great *fire*. *Arbutnot on Coins*.

Though safe thou think'st thy treasure lies, Conceal'd in chests from human eyes, A *fire* may come, and it may be Bury'd, my friend, as far from thee. *Granville*.

- 4. Flame; light; lustre.

Stars, hide your *fires*! Let not night see my black and deep desires! *Shakef. Macb.*

- 5. Torture by burnings.

Did Shadrach's zeal my glowing breast inspire, To weary tortures, and rejoice in *fire*? *Prior*.

- 6. The punishment of the damned.

Who among us shall dwell with the devouring *fire*? Who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings? *Isa. xxxiii.*

- 7. Any thing provoking; any thing that inflames the passions.

What *fire* is in my ears? Can this be true? Stand I condemn'd for pride and scorn so much? *Shakef.*

- 8. Ardour of temper; violence of passion.

He had *fire* in his temper, and a German bluntness; and, upon provocations, might strain a phrase. *Atterbury*.

- 9. Liveliness of imagination; vigour of fancy; intellectual activity; force of expression; spirit of sentiment.

Nor can the snow that age does shed Upon thy rev'rend head, Quench or allay the noble *fire* within, But all that youth can be thou art. *Cowley*.

They have no notion of life and *fire* in fancy and in words, and any thing that is just in grammar and in measure is good oratory and poetry to them. *Felton on the Classics*.

He brings The reasoner's weapons and the poet's *fire*. *Blackmore*.

Exact Racine, and Corneille's noble *fire*, Taught us that France had something to admire. *Pope*.

The bold Longinus all the nine inspire, And warm the critic with a poet's *fire*. *Pope*.

Oh may some spark of your celestial *fire*, The last, the meanest of your sons inspire. *Pope*.

- 10. The passion of love.

Love various hearts does variously inspire, It stirs in gentle bosoms gentle *fire*, Like that of incense on the altar laid; But raging flames tempestuous souls invade; A *fire* which every windy passion blows, With pride it mounts, and with revenge it glows. *Dryden*.

The *fire* of love in youthful blood, Like what is kindled in brush-wood, But for a moment burns. *Shadwell*.

The god of love retires; Dim are his torches, and extinct his *fires*. *Pope*.

New charms shall still increase desire, And time's swift wing shall fan the *fire*. *Moore's Fables*.

- 11. Eruptions or imposthumations: as, St. Anthony's *fire*.

Hermofilla courageously set upon the horsemen, and set *fire* also upon the stables where the Turks' horses stood. *Kneller*.

He that set a *fire* on a plane-tree to spite his neighbour, and the plane-tree set on his neighbour's house, is bound to pay all the loss, because it did all rise from his own ill intention. *Taylor's Rule of living holy*.

**FIREARMS** *n. f.* [from *fire* and *arms*.] Arms which owe their efficacy to *fire*; guns.

Nor had they ammunition to supply their few *firearms*: horses they had, and officers they had, which made all their show. *Clarendon, b. ii.*

Before the use of *firearms* there was infinitely more scope for personal valour than in the modern battles. *Pope*.

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**FIREBALL** *n. f.* [from *fire* and *ball*.] Grenado; ball filled with combustibles, and bursting where it is thrown.

Judge of those insolent boasts of confidence, which, like so many *fireballs*, or mouth grenades, are thrown at our church. *South's Sermons*.

The same great man hath sworn to make us swallow his coin in *fireballs*. *Swift*.

**FIREBRUSH** *n. f.* [from *fire* and *brush*.] The brush which hangs by the fire to sweep the hearth.

When you are ordered to stir up the fire, clean away the ashes from betwixt the bars with the *firebrush*. *Swift*.

**FIREBRAKE** *n. f.* [from *fire* and *brake*.] A fiery serpent: I suppose the prester.

By the hissing of the snake, The rustling of the *firebrake*, I charge thee thou this place forsake, Nor of queen Mab be prattling. *Dryden's Nymphs*.

**FIRENEW** *adj.* [from *fire* and *new*.] New from the forge; new from the melting-house.

Armado is a most illustrious wight, A man of *firenew* words, fashion's own knight. *Shakef.*

Some excellent jests, *firenew* from the mint. *Shakef.*

Upon the wedding-day I put myself, according to custom, in another suit *firenew*, with silver buttons to it. *Addis. Guard*.

**FIREPAN** *n. f.* [from *fire* and *pan*.] Vessel of metal to carry fire.

His *firepans*, and all the vessels thereof, thou shalt make of brass. *Ex. xxvii. 3.*

Pour of it upon a *firepan* well heated, as they do rose-water and vinegar. *Bacon's Natural History*.

**FIREER** *n. f.* [from *fire*.] An incendiary.

Others burned Moussel, and the rest marched as a guard for defence of these *fireers*. *Caveau's Survey of Cornwall*.

**FIRESEDE** *n. f.* [from *fire* and *side*.] The hearth; the chimney; the focus.

My judgment is, that they ought all to be despised, and ought to serve but for Winter talk by the *fireside*. *Bacon*.

By his *fireside* he starts the hare, And turns her in his wicker chair: His feet, however lame, you find, Have got the better of his mind.

What art thou asking of them, after all? Only to sit quietly at thy own *fireside*. *Arbutnot's Hist. of John Bull*.

**FIRESTICK** *n. f.* [from *fire* and *stick*.] A lighted stick or brand.

Children, when they play with *firesticks*, move and whirl them round so fast, that the motion will cozen their eyes, and represent an intire circle of fire to them. *Digby on Bodies*.

**FIREWORK** *n. f.* [from *fire* and *work*.] Shows of fire; pyrotechnical performances.

The king would have me present the princes with some delightful ostentation, or pageant, or antick, or *firework*. *Shak.*

We represent also ordnance, and new mixtures of gunpowder, wildfires burning in water and unquenchable; and also *fireworks* of all variety. *Bacon's New Atlantis*.

The ancients were imperfect in the doctrine of meteors, by their ignorance of gunpowder and *fireworks*. *Brown*.

In *fireworks* give him leave to vent his spite; Those are the only serpents he can write. *Dryden*.

Our companion proposed a subject for a *firework*, which he thought would be very amusing. *Addis. Guardian*.

Their *fireworks* are made up in paper. *Tatler, N<sup>o</sup>. 88.*

**TO FIRE** *v. a.* [from the noun.]

1. To set on fire; to kindle.

They spoiled many parts of the city, and *fired* the houses of those whom they esteemed not to be their friends; but the rage of the fire was at first hindered, and then appeased by the fall of a sudden shower of rain. *Hayward*.

The breathless body, thus bewail'd, they lay, And *fire* the pile. *Dryden*.

A second Paris, diff'ring but in name, Shall *fire* his country with a second flame. *Dryden's Æn.*

- 2. To inflame the passions; to animate.

Yet, if desire of fame, and thirst of pow'r, A beauteous princess, with a crown in dow'r, So *fire* your mind, in arms assert your right. *Dryden*.

- 3. To drive by fire.

He that parts us, shall bring a brand from heav'n And *fire* us hence. *Shakespeare's King Lear*.

**TO FIRE** *v. n.*

1. To take fire; to be kindled.
2. To be inflamed with passion.
3. To discharge any firearms.

**FIREBRAND** *n. f.* [from *fire* and *brand*.]

1. A piece of wood kindled.

I have cased my father-in-law of a *firebrand*, to set my own house in a flame. *L'Estrange*.

- 2. An incendiary; one who inflames factions; one who causes mischief.

Troy must not be, nor goodly Ilion stand; Our *firebrand* brother, Paris, burns us all. *Shakespeare*.

He sent Surrey with a competent power against the rebels, who fought with the principal band of them, and defeated them, and took alive John Chamber, their *firebrand*. *Bacon*.

**FIRECROSS** *n. f.* [from *fire* and *cross*.] A token in Scotland for the nation to take arms: the ends thereof burnt black, and in some parts smeared with blood. It is carried like lightning from one place to another. Upon refusal to send it forward, or to rise, the last person who has it shoots the other dead.

He sent his heralds through all parts of the realm, and commanded the *firecross* to be carried; namely, two firebrands set in fashion of a cross, and pitched upon the point of a spear. *Haywood*.

**FIRELOCK** *n. f.* [from *fire* and *lock*.] A soldier's gun; a gun discharged by striking steel with flint.

Prime all your *firelocks*, fallen well the stake. *Gay*.

**FIREMAN** *n. f.* [from *fire* and *man*.]

1. One who is employed to extinguish burning houses.

The *fireman* treads beneath his crooked arms; A leathern casque his vent'rous head defends, Boldly he climbs where thickest smoke ascends. *Gay*.

- 2. A man of violent passions.

I had last night the fate to drink a bottle with two of these *firemen*. *Tatler, N<sup>o</sup>. 61.*

**FIREPAN** *n. f.* [from *fire* and *pan*.]

1. A pan for holding fire.
2. [In a gun.] The receptacle for the priming powder.

**FIRESHIP** *n. f.* [from *fire* and *ship*.] A ship filled with combustible matter to fire the vessels of the enemy.

Our men bravely quitted themselves of the *fireship*, by cutting the spritsail tackle. *Wijemal's Surgery*.

**FIRESHOVEL** *n. f.* [from *fire* and *shovel*.] The instrument with which the hot coals are thrown up in kitchens.

Nim and Bardolph are sworn brothers in sitching; and in Calais they stole a *fireshovel*. *Shakespeare's Henry V.*

Culinary utensils and irons often feel the force of fire; as tongs, *fireshovels*, prongs, and irons. *Brown's Vulgar Errours*.

The neighbours are coming out with forks and *fireshovels*, and spits, and other domestic weapons. *Dryden's Span. Fryar*.

**FIRESTONE** *n. f.* [from *fire* and *stone*.]

The *firestone*, or pyrites, is a compound metallick fossil, composed of vitriol, sulphur, and an unmetallick earth, but in very different proportions in the several masses. The most common sort, which is used in medicine, is a greenish shapeless kind found in our clay-pits, out of which the green vitriol or copperas is procured. It has its name of pyrites, or *firestone*, from its giving fire on being struck against a steel much more freely than a flint will do; and all the sparks burn a longer time, and grow larger as they fall, the inflammable matter struck from off the stone burning itself out before the spark becomes extinguished. *Hill's Mat. Med.*

*Firestone* is a kind of stone called also Rygate stone, from the place whence it is chiefly brought, being very good for firebricks, ovens, and stoves. *Bulder's Diet.*

*Firestone*, if broke small, and laid on cold lands, must be of advantage. *Mortimer's Husbandry*.

**FIREWOOD** *n. f.* [from *fire* and *wood*.] Wood to burn; fuel.

**FIRING** *n. f.* [from *fire*.] Fowl.

They burn the cakes, *firing* being there scarce. *Mortimer*.

**TO FIRE** *v. a.* [from *ferio*, Latin.] To whip; to beat; to correct; to chastise.

Besides, it is not only foppish, But vile, idolatrous and popish, For one man out of his own skin To *fire* and whip another's sin. *Hudibras, p. ii. can. 2.*

**FIRKIN** *n. f.* [from *ferpen*, Saxon, the fourth part of a vessel.]

1. A vessel containing nine gallons.

Strutt's servants get such a haunt about that shop, that it will cost us many a *firkin* of strong beer to bring them back again. *Arbutnot's History of John Bull*.

- 2. A small vessel.

You heard of that wonder of the lightning and thunder, Which made the lye so much the louder; Now list to another, that miracle's brother, Which was done with a *firkin* of powder. *Denham*.

**FIRM** *adj.* [from *firmus*, Latin.]

1. Strong; not easily pierced or shaken; hard, opposed to soft.

The flakes of his flesh are joined together: they are *firm* in themselves, and they cannot be moved. *Job xli. 23.*

Love's artillery then checks The breastworks of the *firmest* sex. *Cleveland*.

There is nothing to be left void in a *firm* building; even the cavities ought to be filled with rubbish. *Dryden*.

That body, whose parts are most *firm* in themselves, and are by their peculiar shapes capable of the greatest contacts, is the most *firm*; and that which has parts very small, and capable of the least contact, will be most soft. *Woodward*.

- 2. Constant; steady; resolute; fixed; unshaken.

We hold *firm* to the works of God, and to the sense which is God's lamp. *Bacon's Natural History*.

He straight obeys; And *firm* believes. *Milt. Paradise Lost*.

The great encouragement is the assurance of a future reward, the *firm* persuasion whereof is enough to raise us above any thing in this world.

The man that's resolute and just, *Firm* to his principles and trust, *Tillotson, Sermon 6.*

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Nor hopes nor fears can blind. *Walsh*.

**TO FIRM** *v. a.* [from *firmo*, Latin.]

1. To settle; to confirm; to establish; to fix.

He declared the death of the emperor; which after they had seen to be true, they by another secret and speedy messenger advertised Solymann again thereof, *firming* those letters with all their hands and seals. *Kneller's History of the Turks*.

'Tis satisfy'd above by every god, And Jove has *firm'd* it with an awful nod. *Dryden's Æn.*

The pow'r, said he, To you, and your's, and mine, propitious be, And *firm* our purpose with their augury. *Dryden's Æn.*

Oh thou, who free'st me from my doubtful state, Long lost and wilder'd in the maze of fate! Be present still: oh goddes, in our aid Proceed, and *firm* those omens thou hast made. *Pope's Stat.*

- 2. To fix without wandering.

He on his card and compass *firm*s his eye, The masters of his long experiment. *Fairy Queen, b. ii.*

**FIRMAMENT** *n. f.* [from *firmamentum*, Latin.] The sky; the heavens.

Even to the heavens their shouting shrill Doth reach, and all the *firmament* doth fill. *Spenser*.

I am constant as the northern star, Of whose true fixt, and resting quality, There is no fellow in the *firmament*. *Shakef. Jul. Cesar*.

The Almighty, whose hieroglyphical characters are the unnumbered stars, sun and moon, written on these large volumes of the *firmament*. *Raleigh's History of the World*.

The *firmament* expanse of liquid, pure, Transparent, elemental air, diffus'd In circuit to the uttermost convex Of this great round. *Milton's Paradise Lost, b. vii.*

The steeds climb up the first ascent with pain; And when the middle *firmament* they gain, If downward from the heavens my head I bow, And see the earth and ocean hang below, Ev'n I am seiz'd with horror. *Addis. Ovid's Metamorph.*

What an immensurable space is the *firmament*, wherein a great number of stars, lesser and lesser, and consequently farther and farther off, are seen with our naked eye, and many more discovered with our glasses! *Derham's Astro-Theology*.

**FIRMAMENTAL** *adj.* [from *firmamentum*.] Celestial; of the upper regions.

An hollow crystal pyramid he takes, In *firmament* waters dipt above. *Dryden's Ann. Mirab.*

**FIRMLY** *adv.* [from *firm*.]

1. Strongly; impenetrably; immovably.

Thou shalt come of force, Though thou art *firmer* fasten'd than a rock. *Milt. Agonist*.

How very hard particles, which touch only in a few points, can stick together so *firmly*, without something which causes them to be attracted towards one another, is difficult to conceive. *Newton's Opt.*

- 2. Steadily; constantly.

Himself to be the man the fates require; I *firmly* judge, and what I judge desire. *Dryden's Æn. b. vii.*

The common people of Lucca are *firmly* persuaded, that one Lucques can beat five Florentines. *Addis. on Italy*.

**FIRMNESS** *n. f.* [from *firm*.]

1. Stability; hardness; compactness; solidity.

It would become by degrees of greater consistency and *firmness*, so as to resemble an habitable earth. *Burnet*.

- 2. Durability.

Both the easiness and *firmness* of union might be conjectured, for that both people are of the same language. *Haywood*.

- 3. Certainty; soundness.

In persons already possessed with notions of religion, the understanding cannot be brought to change them, but by great examination of the truth and *firmness* of the one, and the flaws and weakness of the other. *South's Sermons*.

- 4. Steadiness; constancy; resolution.

That thou should'st my *firmness* doubt To God, or thee, because we have a foe May tempt us, I expected not to hear. *Milt. Paradise Lost*.

Nor can th' Egyptian patriarch blame my muse, Which for his *firmness* does his heat excuse. *Recommen.*

This armed Job with *firmness* and fortitude. *Atterbury*.

**FIRST** *adj.* [from *primus*, Saxon.]

1. The ordinal of one; that which is in order before any other.

Thy air, Thou other gold-bound brow, is like the *first*. *Shakespeare's Macbeth*.

— A third is like the former. *Shakespeare's Macbeth*.

In the six hundredth and *first* year, in the *first* month, the *first* day of the month, the waters were dried up from off the earth. *Gen. viii. 13.*

- 2. Earliest in time.

Arms and the man I sing, the *first* who bore His course to Latium from the Trojan shore. *Æn.*

The *first* covenant had also ordinances of divine service. *Heb. ix. i.*

I find,

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